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US CLAIMS

1. Method of laser welding at least two sheets (4, 5; 87, 88) along a zone (6; 89) of overlap of these
5 sheets, characterized in that at least a first (5; 88) of the sheets comprises, near the zone of overlap, stiffening means (74) designed to resist the bending of the sheet (5; 88) along the zone (6; 89) of overlap, in that at least one region of the first sheet (5; 88) is
10 made to project, cantilever fashion, into the zone (6; 89) of overlap, the stiffening means being located near this cantilevered region, in that a pressing mechanism of a laser welding installation (2) is made to press against another sheet (4; 87) so as to hold the sheets
15 in contact with one another at the zone (6; 89) of overlap, and in that the laser welding installation is used to weld the sheets together along the zone of overlap.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the stiffening means comprise a profiled part (74) formed as an integral part of the first sheet (5; 88).

3. Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that the profiled part (74) is formed by bending the first sheet (5; 88) away from the zone (6; 89) of
25 overlap, close thereto.

4. Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that the profiled part is a thickened part of the first sheet (5; 88).

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5. Method according to ^{Claim 1} ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~,
30 characterized in that a laser beam (52) emitted by the welding installation (2) passes through the other sheet (4; 87) to weld it to the first sheet (5; 88) at those of their surfaces which face one another in the zone (6; 89) of overlap, the method thus constituting a
35 laser transparency-welding method.

6. Railway vehicle body (81) comprising at least one support framework (840) and an external skin (86), the external skin (86) comprising a collection of sheets (87; 88) welded together at zones (89) of

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overlap and welded to the support structure (840), characterized in that welds connecting the sheets of the skin together are produced by ^{the} ~~a~~ method according to ^{Claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~.

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7. Railway vehicle body (81) comprising at least one support framework (840) and an external skin (86), the external skin (86) comprising a collection of sheets (87; 88) welded together at zones (89) of overlap and welded to the support structure (840), characterized in that welds connecting the sheets of the skin together are produced by ^{the} ~~a~~ method according to Claim 5.